

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 2496 without my signature.

California has long been a leader in water conservation. The state's movement to low-flow toilets in the early 1990's paved the way for the federal government to adopt similar standards soon thereafter. We should continue to be leaders in this area.

However, before imposing new mandates on builders and homeowners, we must conduct a thorough study of the new technology to determine its readiness for widespread use. For instance, the movement to the current low-flow toilets, though ultimately successful, was accompanied at first by legitimate complaints from consumers of product failures. A number of questions have arisen regarding the toilets required by this bill, including whether sufficient laboratory testing has verified compatibility with existing plumbing infrastructure.

This issue is best left to the California Building Standards Commission, which is comprised of experts qualified to lead an investigation into how best Californians can integrate water-saving technology into our homes and commercial buildings. I encourage the proponents of this measure to work with the Commission to adopt these changes through the Commission process.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger